

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 845

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, YO, SW

SUBJECT: TITO'S HEALTH

REF : BELGRADE 482 (NOTAL)

1. SWEDISH EMBASSY HERE INFORMS US PLANNING WITH YUGOSLAVS FOR TITO'S TRIP TO SWEDEN CONTINUES APACE. SWEDES HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT TITO IS NOT SERIOUSLY ILL AND THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL IN MARCH AS SCHEDULED. HOWEVER, THEY SAY THERE ARE CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES IN FINALIZING THE PROGRAM--FOR EXAMPLE, YUGOSLAV DEMANDS THAT SWEDISH PRESS CHARGES ABOUT INVOLVEMENT IN USTASHI LEADER'S ASSASSINATION BE SILENCED BEFORE THE VISIT.

2. ANOTHER STRAW IN WIND ON TITO'S HEALTH IS THE COL. GEN. DR. ISIDOR PAPO, WHO IS CHIEF OF MEDICAL SERVICES OF THE YUGOSLAV ARMY, A WELL-KNOWN HEART SURGEON OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AND WHO IS FREQUENTLY CONSULTED ABOUT TITO'S AILMENTS, WILL MACEDONIAN PRESIDENT SMILEVSKI TO HOUSTON FEBRUARY 9 (REFTEL). (RECENT COMMENT OF US DESK OFFICER AT FSFA ON SMILEVSKI'S CONTDITION WAS "I GUESS THIS IS THE END.") WE BELIEVE PAPO WOULD PROBABLY BE RELUCTANT TO LEAVE YUGO-SLAVIA IF TITO WERE SERIOUSLY ILL.
SWEITZER

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